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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/552,396

10/07/2005

Koji Akiyama

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EXAMINER

HANLEY, BRITT D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/552,396	Applicant(s) AKIYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner BRITT HANLEY	Art Unit 2889	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/10/2009</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

[01] Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality (made on July 08, 2009 via telephone) of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn. Applicant submitted reference Koichi (JP2004-127805), published on 2004 April 22 is disqualified as prior art because an English language translation of the foreign priority document was submitted on 2008 June 09.

[02] Amendment filed on 04/21/2009 has been entered and noted by Examiner. Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

[03] The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

[04] The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

[05] Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinji *et al.* (JP11-213891) in view of Applicant cited Oono (JP3-75596) and Kazuya *et al.* (JP07-162180).

[06] Regarding claim 1 and 6, Shinji *et al.* disclose an aging method and device for performing an aging of a plasma display panel (10) using an aging device (1) including an air

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blowing means (fan, paragraph 23) for cooling a plasma display panel (paragraph 23), the method comprising: cooling the plasma display panel during the aging (paragraph 23). Shinji *et al.* do not explicitly appear to disclose changing at least one of direction or amount of air blown from the air blowing means during the aging process or the air blowing means is positioned above a surface of the plasma display panel to direct air to the surface in a direction other than parallel relative to the surface of the plasma display panel.

[07] However, in the same field of fan cooling, Oono discloses a fan (6) and an airflow guide (2) that changes the direction of the air to cool a circuit board (3). Further, in the same field of fan cooling, Kazuya *et al.* disclose a plurality of fans (55) that rotated around a parallel surface of a circuit board (paragraph 33, Figures 1 and 2) in order to cool the devices uniformly (paragraph 25).

[08] At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art having the references of Shinji *et al.*, Oono, and Kazuya *et al.* to modify device of Shinji *et al.* to include the airflow guide of Oono in order to better cool the panel so as to prevent cracks from forming in the panel and to include fans capable of blowing air toward the PDP in directions other than parallel to the surface of the PDP in order to uniformly cool the PDP (paragraph 25, Kazuya *et al.*).

[09] Further, optimizing the direction of air flow toward the surface of the PDP is a matter of routine optimization and within the skills of one having ordinary skill in the art.

[10] Regarding claims 2 and 7, the combination of Shinji *et al.*, Oono, and Kazuya *et al.* disclose the method and device of claims 1 and 6, wherein the air blowing means includes a plurality of air blowing devices (27, paragraph 33, Kazuya *et al.*), and an air blowing amount of at least one of the plurality of air blowing devices is changed (Drawing 2, blown density is controlled, Oono). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art having the references of Shinji *et al.*, Oono, and Kazuya *et al.* to include a plurality of fans and in order to better cool the panel so as to prevent cracks from forming in the panel.

[11] Regarding claims 3 and 8, the combination of Shinji *et al.*, Oono, and Kazuya *et al.* disclose the aging method and device of a plasma display panel according to claims 1 and 6, wherein the air blowing means includes a plurality air blowing device (27, Kazuya *et al.*) and an air blowing direction changeable means provided between the plurality of air blowing devices and the plasma display panel (Figure 2, Oono) so that, during the aging (paragraph 23, Shinji *et al.*), the air blowing direction changeable means changes directions of air blown from the plurality of air blowing devices (Figure 2, Oono). The reason to combine is the same as found in claim 1.

[12] Regarding claims 4 and 9, the combination of Shinji *et al.*, Oono, and Kazuya *et al.* disclose the aging method and device of a plasma display panel according to claim 1, wherein the air blowing means includes a plurality of air blowing devices (27, paragraph 33, Kazuya *et al.*) so that, during the aging, at least one of the plurality of air blowing devices is moved (paragraph 24, Kazuya *et al.*). The motivation to combine is the same as in claim 1.

[13] Regarding claims 5 and 10, the combination of Shinji *et al.*, Oono, and Kazuya *et al.* disclose the aging method and device of a plasma display panel according to claims 1 and 6, wherein the air blowing means includes a plurality of air blowing devices (27, paragraph 33, Kazuya *et al.*) so that, during the aging, at least one of the plurality of air blowing devices changes in a direction (drawings 1 and 2, Kazuya *et al.*). The motivation to combines is the same as found in claim 1.

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Response to Arguments

[14] Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

[15]

Conclusion

[16] Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

[17] A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

[18] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Britt Hanley whose telephone number is (571) 270-3042. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 6:30a-5:00p ET.

[19] If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minh-Toan Ton can be reached on (571)272-2303. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

[20] Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Britt Hanley/ Examiner, Art Unit 2889	/Toan Ton/ <i>Supervisory Patent Examiner</i> <i>Art Unit 2889</i>
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